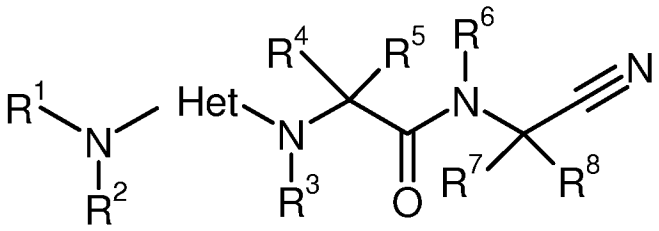
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (I):



(I)

R^1 is independently hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{3-6} cycloalkyl;

R^2 is independently aryl, heteroaryl or a group C_{1-6} alkylR^9, $CO(C_{1-6}$ alkyl$)R^9$ or $SO_2(C_{1-6}$alkyl$)R^9$; ~~where R^9 is aryl or heteroaryl;~~

~~or R^1 and R^2 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 4 to 7-membered saturated ring optionally containing a carbonyl group, O, S or N atom and optionally substituted by one or more C_{1-6} alkyl, amino, hydroxy, CO_2C_{1-6} alkyl, COC_{1-6} alkyl, halogen, C_{1-6} alkylhydroxy, $NR^{10}R^{11}$ where R^{10} and R^{11} are independently hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl or together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 5- or 6-membered saturated ring optionally containing a further O, S or NR^1 group, C_{1-6} alkyl$NR^{12}R^{13}$ where R^{12} and R^{13} are independently hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl, $CONR^{12}R^{13}$, or optionally substituted by C_{1-6} alkylR^9, aryl, phenoxy, COaryl, COheteroaryl or a heteroaryl group, the latter six groups being optionally substituted by halogen, amino, hydroxy, cyano, nitro, carboxy, $CONR^{12}R^{13}$, $SO_2NR^{12}R^{13}$, SO_2R^{12}, trifluoromethyl, $NHSO_2R^{12}$, $NHCOR^{12}$, ethylenedioxy, methylenedioxy, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} alkyl $NR^{10}R^{11}$, SR^{12} or $NR^{10}R^{11}$;~~

Het is a heteroaryl ring chosen from pyridine, pyrimidine, pyrazine, pyridazine or triazine and optionally substituted by halogen, amino, hydroxy, cyano, nitro, carboxy, $CONR^{12}R^{13}$, $SO_2NR^{12}R^{13}$, SO_2R^{12}, trifluoromethyl, $NHSO_2R^{12}$, $NHCOR^{12}$, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, SR^{12} or $NR^{10}R^{11}$;

R^3 is independently hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{3-6} cycloalkyl;

R^4 is independently hydrogen, C_{1-8} alkyl, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl, arylC_{1-5}alkyl or heteroarylC_{1-5}alkyl, the latter three groups being optionally substituted by one or more halogen, amino, hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, SR^{12} or $NR^{10}R^{11}$;

R^5 is independently hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{3-6} cycloalkyl;

R^6 is independently hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{3-6} cycloalkyl;

R^7 is independently hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{3-6} cycloalkyl; ~~and~~

R^8 is independently hydrogen, aryl, heteroaryl or C_{1-6} alkyl optionally substituted with one or more aryl, heteroaryl, halogen, amino, hydroxy, carboxy, $CONR^{12}R^{13}$, $SO_2NR^{12}R^{13}$, SO_2R^{12}, $NHSO_2R^{12}$, $NHCOR^{12}$, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, SR^{12} or $NR^{10}R^{11}$;

R^9 is aryl or heteroaryl;

R^{10} and R^{11} are independently hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl or together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 5- or 6-membered saturated ring optionally containing a further O, S or NR^1 group; and

R^{12} and R^{13} are independently hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. (Original) A compound according to claim 1 in which R^1 is hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl and R^2 is CH_2R^9 or $CH_2CH_2R^9$ where R^9 is phenyl or a 5- or 6-membered aromatic ring containing one or two heteroatoms and optionally substituted by C_{1-6} alkyl.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1 in which R^3 is hydrogen.

5. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1 in which R^4 is hydrogen.

6. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1 in which R^5 is hydrogen ~~or phenyl optionally substituted by C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{1-6} alkoxy~~.

7. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (I) selected from:

~~N~1~-[Cyano(2-methoxyphenyl)methyl]-N~2~-(2-morpholin-4-ylpyrimidin-4-yl)-L-leucinamide,~~

~~N~1~-[Cyano(2-methoxyphenyl)methyl]-N~2~-(2-piperazin-1-ylpyrimidin-4-yl)-L-leucinamide,~~

~~N-[Cyano(2-methoxyphenyl)methyl]-N-(2-morpholin-4-ylpyrimidin-4-yl)-L-phenylalaninamide,~~

~~N~1~-[Cyano(2-methoxyphenyl)methyl]-3-cyclohexyl-N~2~-(2-morpholin-4-ylpyrimidin-4-yl)-L-alaninamide,~~

N-[2-(Benzylamino)pyrimidin-4-yl]-N-(cyanomethyl)-L-phenylalaninamide,

N-{2-[Benzyl(methyl)amino]pyrimidin-4-yl}-N-(cyanomethyl)-L-phenylalaninamide,

~~N-{2-[4-(4-Chlorophenyl)piperazin-1-yl]pyrimidin-4-yl}-N-(cyanomethyl)-L-phenylalaninamide,~~

N~2~-[2-(Benzylamino)pyrimidin-4-yl]-N~1~-(cyanomethyl)-3-cyclohexyl-L-alaninamide,

N~2~-{2-[Benzyl(methyl)amino]pyrimidin-4-yl}-N~1~-(cyanomethyl)-3-cyclohexyl-L-alaninamide,

~~N~2~-{2-[4-(4-Chlorophenyl)piperazin-1-yl]pyrimidin-4-yl}-N~1~-(cyanomethyl)-3-cyclohexyl-L-alaninamide,~~

~~N~1~-(Cyanomethyl)-N~2~-(4-morpholin-4-ylpyrimidin-2-yl)-L-leucinamide,~~

~~N~1~-(Cyanomethyl)-N~2~-(2-morpholin-4-ylpyrimidin-4-yl)-L-leucinamide,~~

~~N~1~-(Cyanomethyl)-N~2~-[2-(4-hydroxy-4-phenylpiperidin-1-yl)pyrimidin-4-yl]-L-leucinamide,~~

N~1~-(Cyanomethyl)-N~2~-{2-[methyl(pyridin-3-ylmethyl)amino]pyrimidin-4-yl}-L-leucinamide,

N~2~-{2-[Benzyl(methyl)amino]pyrimidin-4-yl}-N~1~-(cyanomethyl)-L-leucinamide,

~~N~2~-{2-[4-(4-Chlorophenyl)piperazin-1-yl]pyrimidin-4-yl}-N~1~-(cyanomethyl)-L-leucinamide,~~

~~N~2~-{2-[4-(5-Chloropyridin-2-yl)piperazin-1-yl]pyrimidin-4-yl}-N~1~-(cyanomethyl)-L-leucinamide,~~

N~1~-(Cyanomethyl)-N~2~-{2-[methyl(thien-3-ylmethyl)amino]pyrimidin-4-yl}-L-leucinamide,

~~N~1~-(Cyanomethyl)-N~2~-(2-thiomorpholin-4-ylpyrimidin-4-yl)-L-leucinamide,~~

~~N~1~-(Cyanomethyl)-N~2~-[2-(4-phenylpiperazin-1-yl)pyrimidin-4-yl]-L-leucinamide,~~

~~N~1~-(Cyanomethyl)-N~2~-{2-[2-(hydroxymethyl)piperidin-1-yl]pyrimidin-4-yl}-L-leucinamide,~~

~~N~1~-(Cyanomethyl)-N~2~-{2-[(2R)-2-(hydroxymethyl)pyrrolidin-1-yl]pyrimidin-4-yl}-L-leucinamide,~~

~~N~1~-(Cyanomethyl)-N~2~-[2-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)pyrimidin-4-yl]-L-leucinamide,~~

~~N~1~-(Cyanomethyl)-N~2~-{2-[4-(2-furoyl)piperazin-1-yl]pyrimidin-4-yl}-L-leucinamide,~~

~~N~2~-{2-[3-(Aminocarbonyl)piperidin-1-yl]pyrimidin-4-yl}-N~1~-(cyanomethyl)-L-leucinamide,~~

N~1~-(Cyanomethyl)-N~2~-{2-[methyl(2-pyridin-2-ylethyl)amino]pyrimidin-4-yl}-L-leucinamide,

~~N~2~-[2-(4-Benzylpiperidin-1-yl)pyrimidin-4-yl]-N~1~-(cyanomethyl)-L-leucinamide,~~

~~N~1~-(Cyanomethyl)-N~2~-[2-(4-pyridin-2-ylpiperazin-1-yl)pyrimidin-4-yl]-L-leucinamide,~~

~~N~1~-(Cyanomethyl)-N~2~-[2-(4-phenylpiperidin-1-yl)pyrimidin-4-yl]-L-leucinamide,~~

~~N~1~-(Cyanomethyl)-N~2~-{2-[4-(2-hydroxyethyl)piperidin-1-yl]pyrimidin-4-yl}-L-leucinamide,~~

~~N~2~-{2-[4-(3-Chlorophenyl)piperazin-1-yl]pyrimidin-4-yl}-N~1~-(cyanomethyl)-L-leucinamide,~~

~~N~1~-(Cyanomethyl)-N~2~-[2-(4-phenoxypiperidin-1-yl)pyrimidin-4-yl]-L-leucinamide,~~

~~N~1~-(Cyanomethyl)-N~2~-[2-(3-phenylpyrrolidin-1-yl)pyrimidin-4-yl]-L-leucinamide,~~

N~1~-(Cyanomethyl)-N~2~-(2-{methyl[(3-methylisoxazol-5-yl)methyl]amino} pyrimidin-4-yl)-L-leucinamide,

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a compound as defined in claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

10-20. (Cancelled)

21. (New) A compound according to claim 1 in which R^4 is phenylC_{1-5}alkyl being optionally substituted by one or more halogen, amino, hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, SR^{12} or $NR^{10}R^{11}$.

22. (New) A compound according to claim 1 in which R^5 is C_{1-6} alkyl.

23. (New) A compound according to claim 1 in which R^5 is iso-butyl.

24. (New) A compound according to claim 1 in which R^6 is hydrogen.

25. (New) A compound according to claim 1 in which R^7 and R^8 are both hydrogen.

26. (New) A compound according to claim 1 in which R^9 is phenyl, pyridyl or oxazole substituted by methyl.

27. (New) A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a compound according to claim 26 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

28. (New) A compound according to claim 1 in which Het is a pyrimidine ring.